

brother

The NewsQuarterly of the National Organization for Men

Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1984



\$3.50

Echoes of Ann Arbor

and...



Will We Ever Change the World?

— Bob Brannon

Before we change the world, a few reflections about the National Conference in Ann Arbor. We're not going to say much about it in this issue - after all, it was six months ago, and there were several articles in M. magazine, plus a very good critique by Ron Linville in New Women's Times. *

But in a word, the conference was super.

I sometimes wonder what those of you who don't come to men's conferences think about the emphasis we seem to place on them. One doesn't have to attend. It's certainly possible to share in all the ideas and values of this movement, without coming to a single conference. But more than most social change movements, we seem to be energized, inspired, and rejuvenated by the things that happen when we come together in

one place. The atmosphere at a national men's conference is impossible to really describe, but it's unique. These are some kids there, and some women, but mostly men. Lots of men. Where else in the world can a grown man be playful, sing, have fun, feel non-competitive, and totally nourish and nurture himself, and regard this all as heavy revolutionary activity?!

At its best, a men's conference is like a fleeting glimpse of the kind of world we want to live in, but can rarely experience

Continued next page

Inside:

| | |
|--|----|
| Duberman On Reformism..... | 9 |
| Dworkin's Challenge..... | 17 |
| Rainbow Coalition Winning Elections..... | 7 |
| Two N.O.M.'s?..... | 20 |
| Two M.'s?..... | 6 |
| 9th National Conference..... | 21 |

* Oct '83; 804 Meigs St, Rochester NY 14620



From The Editors

BROTHER is a publication of the National Organization for Men, a coalition of straight and gay men and women. The objectives of BROTHER are to promote communication among members, and to reflect the thought and activities of the pro-feminist, pro-male men's movement to a broader audience. BROTHER publishes organizational news, brief articles, reviews, information resources, cultural materials, and letters. This is a critical time for the movement of men and women concerned with changing men's roles. We hope that BROTHER can play an important role in creating greater unity among us, and increasing our impact on society.

At its August, 1983, meeting, the N.O.M. Council elected an editorial group for BROTHER including Bob Brannon, Michael Kimmel, Joseph Pleck, and Barry Shapiro as Co-Editors, and Sidney Miller as Culture Editor. We still need and welcome additional members - see our notice elsewhere in this issue. Our policies for determining what material appears in BROTHER are still being developed. Appearance of a particular point of view in BROTHER does not necessarily reflect endorsement by the N.O.M. We welcome comments from members. We hope to develop "theme" issues in the future. Some themes we are considering include: men and emotions; innovative activities; the politics of the men's movement. Future issues will feature material on the N.O.M.'s Statement of Principles, which is now in the process of development.

(continued)

at home. I was confronted in Ann Arbor by a man I didn't know for a thoughtless mistake I had made that inconvenienced several people. He was annoyed, and he sought me out to tell me so. But he did it in such a restrained, unjudgmental way there was no way I could get defensive or angry. I realized later that the way he had confronted me had made me like and respect him. If that's what the new world is going to be like, I can't wait.

To many people the most remarkable part of our movement is the rapport and communication that has developed between straight and gay men. To newcomers this is often the most startling thing about a men's conference. Sometimes it's a bit TOO startling, and they flee. We tend to forget just how strong homophobia is, even in sincere, anti-sexist straight men who are drawn to our movement. If we really want to use our conferences as a time to involve new men, perhaps we should have an orientation, and plan the sequence of conference events a little more carefully to deal with the anxieties of these newcomers. (They'll be ready for Romanovsky & Phillips by the third or fourth night of the conference!)

Speaking of which, it seemed in Ann Arbor that one of the best products of our movement to date is the flowering of men's culture - music, poetry, drama, and other art forms by men, and usually directed toward issues that matter to anti-sexist men and women. The cultural performances in Ann Arbor were just wonderful. There are so many fine artists now that it's impossible to schedule them all. A nice problem to have.

I thought we took an important political step also by beginning to talk about.. pornography. Over a hundred people came to one discussion. This is a tough and confu-

sing issue for many reasons. No one that I know of is calling for (that alarming word) censorship. And yet it's obvious that some very disturbing things are happening today, on a huge scale. The phrase "sexual politics" was never more apt. We'll have an article about this issue in the next BROTHER.

I am a man full of the past
a carrier of memory and custom
unaccountable unavailable unhappy

Is it any wonder
the song is shrill
the moment intense
the world temporary

I am strong and afraid
I am defiant and compassionate
I am a man full of my present
in search

- Sidney Miller

Next summer's conference will be in Washington DC, during the final stages of a crucial Presidential election. Can there be any doubt that urgent political issues will be on all our minds? I don't expect Ronald Reagan to attend any workshops on male privilege. Too bad. Maybe we can arrange a fairie circle at midnight, on the White House lawn. (Ah, but will Walter come... ?!)

Will This Movement Ever Change The World?!! Some of us are more or less content for this to remain a relatively small and interpersonally-oriented movement. Making changes in our own lives is both important and difficult. Trying to change

(Continued on p. 12)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISSUES

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| Change The World? | 1 | Who's Working? | 11 |
| Can Castration Stop Rape? .. | 3 | National Conference Plans .. | 21 |
| Rainbow Winning Elections .. | 7 | Chairpersons Report | 10 |
| Duberman on Gay Reformism .. | 9 | Spokespersons Report | 20 |
| Dworkin's Challenge | 17 | Editorial Statement | 2 |
| REGIONAL | | Name change? | 21 |
| Regional Organizing | 16 | Announcements | 8 |
| Northeast Conference | 15 | Task Groups | |
| Midwest Conference | 17 | Task Group Report | 19 |
| California Conference | 16 | Sexual Harassment | 13 |
| Florida Conference | 16 | Men's Studies Report | 18 |
| MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION .. 23 | | | |

BROTHER is a publication of The National Organization for Men. EDITORS: Bob Brannon, Michael Kimmel, Joe Pleck, & Barry Shapiro. CULTURE EDITOR: Sidney Miller. Photographs in this issue by Rick Cote, Dodd Robert, Jim Gerhard, Saviz Shafaie, & Joanne Brannon. Produced with Wordstar on Osborne I, Kaypro II, and Apple II. Printer: Ragged Edge Press, NYC. Thanks for help and support: SDW, JB, EB. Subscription free with membership in The National Organization for Men.

ISSUES

Can Castration Stop Rape?

For years, signs bearing the slogan "Castrate Rapists" have been carried at Take Back the Night marches. Recently, this wish born of women's rage was given an ominous life as a judge in South Carolina handed down a sentence to three convicted rapists, offering a choice between 30 years in prison and surgical castration. This decision by Judge C. Victor Pyle touched off a national debate, focusing largely on the barbarity and constitutionality of the castration option. But such controversy



has only hinted at some of the more significant political issues. The central question

is whether or not castration will prevent these men from raping again, and therefore whether the threat of castration will act as a significant deterrent in preventing future rapes. The sentence hinges on a definition of rape as a sexual crime demanding a sexual solution. But most feminist observers have come to see rape as a crime of violence, in which sexual violation is a means to achieve a non-sexual goal of humiliation and domination. Castration is not only ineffective in preventing sexual violation - but it does not address the motivation that lies behind the rape. In fact it may make it worse, exacerbating the misogynist anger and fear that fuels rape.

"I'm afraid to have men like this out on the street," said Joy Bennett, executive director of the Rape Crisis Center in Greenville, S.C., near the site of the rape. "In fact, there is the potential that they are going to be even more dangerous after they are castrated."

by Michael Kimmel

Judge Payle's sentence sets a precedent, though, only because he stipulated surgical castration. A number of men accused of "sexual crimes" have been treated with female hormones, such as Depo-Provera. Last summer, after conviction on two rape charges in Texas, Joseph Frank Smith became the first man sentenced to receive these injections, amounting to chemical castration, in lieu of a prison sentence.

Injection of female hormones to reduce the man's sexual drive again misses the point, and even perpetuates the myth that rapists are men with overpowering libidinal urges who don't get enough sex. Rape is the outcome of hatred, not lust.

These, then, are false solutions, that partially treat an overt symptom while they



Rape is Violence, Not Sex

subtly reproduce the causes. (In addition, there may be racist undercurrents at work; Judge Pyle is white and the three convicted rapists are black.) Reduced libido or surgical castration will not prevent a rape like one in which the victim was beaten and burned and lost four pints of blood. We would need to inject a different consciousness, or amputate that part of men that hates women. This would ultimately involve our minds more than our sexual organs.

ROUND-UP

ROUNDUP is a regular feature of BROTHER. Readers are invited to send news clippings, announcements, and items of interest to and about men and the men's movement to: Roundup, c/o Joseph Pleck, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, Wellesley MA 02181. Items of more academic interest appear in the newsletter of the Men's Studies Task Group.

Philip Cowan of Berkeley recently found that fathers whose working hours permitted their involvement in child care feel better about themselves, and have wives who are less depressed, regardless of whether or not they are employed mothers.

ARE FATHERS BECOMING WIMPS?: According to an article by Darrell Sifford (carried by Knight-Ridder service) Philadelphia psychologist John B. Franklin holds that in their rush toward meaningful fatherhood,

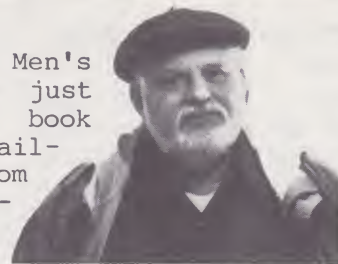


men have looked toward women as models, with a near-total abandonment of healthy masculinity. The result: "They have become wimpy, care-giving quiche eaters." Franklin believes that the primary danger is that men "will get too wimpy. It's a role reversal that's happening to some men..." When we get backlash like this, we must be having some effect...

OH THOSE BEASTS: Hawley Atkinson, chair of the Maricopa County (Arizona) Board of Supervisors was called upon to resign in early December after he had suggested that "homosexuals and lesbians from San Francisco" should be used in medical experiments instead of animals from the pound. After being attacked in the press, Atkinson said it is the gay community's privilege to ask for his resignation and to initiate a recall if it so desires, but he thinks he still can represent gays.

BOOKS: All the books we review and discuss in Brother are available from one source, Food for Thought Books in Amherst, MA. Their "Changing Men's Bookshelf" will stock most current and older titles on topics of interest to our readers. Write to them at: 67 N. Pleasant St. Amherst, MA 01002.

Sidney Miller, our Men's Culture Editor, has just released his first book of poetry. It's available for \$6.00 from Sidney at 1450 Pali-sade Ave, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024



ATTENTION CULTURE VULTURES: Words and music continue to pour forth from our brothers. Gary Lapow's new cassette album has just been released--a superb live recording that captures Gary's infectious enthusiasm--and is available for \$8.00 from: Gary Lapow, Box 1317, 2000 Center St., Berkeley, CA 94704. Willie Sordill's second album on Folkways records, Silent Highways, is also new, and very impressive. It can be ordered from Willie for \$8.00 at 38 Jay St., Cambridge, MA 02139. And Fred Small, that travelling political folksinger (who is to the 1980's what Pete Seeger was to the 1950's and Tom Paxton was to the 1960's), also has a brand new record on Rounder Records. Available from Fred for \$8.00 also at 38 Jay St. Cambridge, MA 02139. (As Fred's and Willie's records--as well as Geof Morgan's on Flying Fish--are on nationally known labels, a good idea would be to ask for them at your local record store so they will start stocking men's movement music.)

NEW RESEARCH ON FATHERS: A session at the American Psychological Association Convention in August was titled "Fatherhood in the 1980's." John Moreland of Ohio State U. reported research indicating that men who emphasized traditional values such as job status when their children were young were likely to face greater difficulties in case of divorce or widowhood.



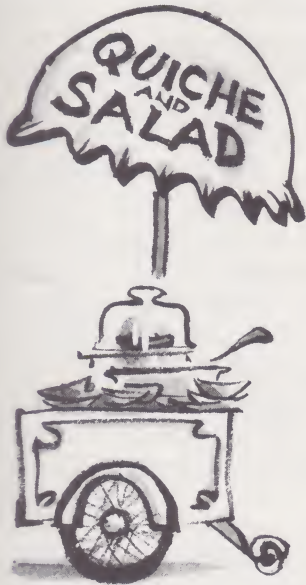
ROUND-UP

FATHERHOOD RESOURCES: Still one of the best ongoing resources on fatherhood and men/children is: Nurturing News, edited by David Giveans, 187 Caselli Ave., San Francisco CA 94114. It costs just \$7 a year.

MEN'S STUDIES: the Department of Women's Studies at Mankato (MN) State University is creating a Master's Program for feminist activists working for social change. It is interested in having a concentration in anti-sexist men's studies within the program. For information, write to: Sally Roesch Wagner, Chair, Women's Studies, Mankato State Univ, Mankato, MN 56001.

RECORDS: Good Fairy Productions stocks a complete list of anti-sexist and gay music, including Charlie Murphy and many other musicians. All records can be ordered through them at: PO Box 12188, Seattle, WA 98102.

THEY REALLY DON'T EAT QUICHE: Cmdr. Jack Need, director of food services at the U.S. Naval Academy is attempting to upgrade the academy's diet and decorum. When he introduced Beef Wellington, midshipmen complained: "What's this stuff on my meat?" On nights when Cmdr. Need served quiche, dozens of middies brought the book Real Men Don't Eat Quiche to dinner. "They'd read it while making their peanut butter and jelly sandwiches," said one officer. (reported in Wall St. Journal, 12/14/83)



BRITISH MEN'S MOVEMENT: Achilles Heel, the major publication of

the British men's movement, recently published its 6th issue, focusing on sexuality. Topics of earlier issues have included masculinity and violence, men and work, and pregnant fathers. For a subscription (\$14) or individual copies (\$5) write to: Achilles Heel 7 St. Mark's Rise, London E8.



MORE ABOUT MUSIC, THIS TIME FOR KIDS: Have you ever tried to find quality records or tapes for your children? There are a growing number of terrific recordings for kids, but many are hard to find. Chris Boyd has assembled a wonderful catalog of these recordings--everything from Sesame Street to Woody Guthrie and Tom Hunter, to a compilation album featuring Bruce Springsteen singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Write for a catalog today: High Mountain Music, 109 East Main St., Bozeman, Montana 59715.

GERALD FORD ON FATHERHOOD: Former President Ford published an article in the October 23 issue of Parade magazine titled "Childcare is for Everybody," which argued that men must be as active in caring for their children as women have always been. "Parenting, these days, has to be fully shared by mother and father." Ford's staff prepared this article as part of his work as honorary chair of the Child Care Action Campaign, a new national organization supporting child care.

You Can Join The Staff Of BROTHER

The collective that is producing BROTHER - Pleck, Brannon, Kimmel, Shapiro, and Miller - welcomes new members; and especially those with any of the following skills or interests:

1. Layout - We need a layout Editor who can take camera-ready copy and graphics and assemble these into attractive pages ready for delivery to the printer. Expenses paid, full participation in editorial decisions.
2. Photographs - Members are needed who will take photos at men's events, or take special shots to illustrate particular themes.
3. Graphics - We could use someone with an artistic eye to collect interesting drawings and graphics for use in BROTHER.
4. Advertising Editor - We are now willing to accept ads. We would welcome one or more members to solicit ads, on a generous commission arrangement.
5. Writers - Members are needed who can write articles as needed on particular themes or news events.
6. Copy Editors - Can you correct, condense, polish, and/or improve rough material that someone else has written?
7. Artists, Cartoonists, other Skills - Let us know what you can or would like to do. We'll use your skills.

Contributing to BROTHER is fun, and important to the Men's movement. We welcome your help. Please write or call: (212) 865-1457; 310 W. 107 St. 1-C, NY NY 10025.

ROUND-UP

HOW MANY M's ARE THERE? Perhaps you went to the newsstand recently and saw a new issue of M on the stands. But wait! A glossy cover?! And what's this: a new subtitle, something about "the civilized man." No, M hasn't sold out to the establishment. (Although it is true that our movement deserves an attractive full-color magazine.) What happened is that a big New York publishing house has appropriated M as the name for their new slick magazine, that is, incidentally, antithetical to everything that M stands for. Stay tuned to M and Brother for further developments in the struggle for the name.

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND MALE ROLE CONSCIOUSNESS: Norm Ephraim, a clinical social worker in Boston, has just completed a doctoral research project in psychology which focuses on male sex role consciousness in psychologists, and its impact on psychotherapy, especially with male clients.

RECENT RELEASES FROM PLUTO PRESS: Emmanuel Reynaud's Holy Virility is a major work from the French men's movement; Paul Hoch's White Hero, Black Beast, is an analysis of the male role emphasizing connections between sexism and racism. (Both are available through the Changing Men's Bookshelf.)

THE GOVERNOR'S DOMESTIC CHORES: According to an article in the Boston Globe on September 20, Gov. Michael Dukakis has been responsible for the family's weekly grocery shopping for the last five years. The family keeps a roster of household chores and each person is responsible for his or her own jobs each week. Said Kitty Dukakis, "Whoever's turn it is to cook that night takes something out of the freezer." She cooks three nights a week, while the governor and daughter Kara each cook two. If the governor seems like a domestic paragon, his wife points fondly to her father, age 75, as evidence that "everybody has something to learn." "It took me three days to teach him how to operate the washer and dryer," she says. But when he finally mastered it, he called her to report his new expertise, "sounding as if he had just climbed Mt. Everest."

COLLEGE TEXT: James A. Doyle's The Male Experience, the first comprehensive college-level text on the male role, was published earlier last year by William C. Brown Co., Dubuque, IA.

TESTICULAR CANCER TREATMENT: Mark Garnick, M.D., of the Dana-Farner Cancer Institute, Boston, reported in the Journal of the American medical association (September, 1983) that a new program combining intensive chemotherapy and surgery achieved an 85% remission rate in testicular cancer in a sample of 39 patients.

A "Rainbow Coalition"



of Women, Gays, and Blacks Is Beginning To Win Elections



Kathy Whitmire

Just a few years ago the conventional wisdom was that political minority groups rarely supported one another. In 1984 this seems to be changing, as a "rainbow coalition" of women, blacks, gays, Hispanics, the elderly, handicapped, and poor voters is emerging as a factor in many state and local elections.



- Kathy Whitmire was re-elected in Houston, after courting gay votes and getting strong support from women, Hispanics, and blacks.

- Black leader Melvin King lost the mayoral race in Boston but in conceding, proclaimed that "I am proud to have represented the rainbow coalition."

- Gay conservative Robert Bauman almost won in Maryland, getting 42% of the vote just four weeks after the sensational disclosure of his sexual orientation.

- Bill Allain was elected Governor of Mississippi, despite documented and televised charges of homosexuality during the final weeks of the election.

- Wilson Goode became the first black Mayor of Philadelphia, after specifically appealing to gays and women during his campaign.

- Marion Barry became Mayor of Washington D.C. with the support of gays and women, and later ran ads in gay newspapers reminding readers that the city had an open hiring policy.

- Sheffiff Robbie Waters promised to hire gay deputies and treat gays fairly in his race in Sacramento; he later said that gay support had been a major factor in his election.

- In 1982 the gay Human Rights Campaign Fund contributed \$609,000 to 119 congressional candidates, and 80% of them won.

As the Democratic Presidential contest shapes up in 1984, the lines already seem sharply drawn. Walter Mondale stressed the rainbow coalition by name in his opening campaign speech, and then made headlines by being the first major Presidential contender in U.S. history to endorse gay rights. Mondale will support federal legislation "to prohibit discrimination based on sexual preference." He would also use "executive orders and the power of the presidency" to ban discrimination against gays.

The other leading Democratic candidate, John Glenn of Ohio, has said that he

would not favor extending federal civil rights laws to cover "personal behavior variations." Glenn added that he thought

most Americans agreed with his view, and that the American people are not ready to accept gay rights. At a recent news conference, Glenn stated that gays and Lesbians could properly be excluded from military service and "role model" occupations such as teaching or the "director of the YMCA."



Jackson

Glenn told gay leaders that he would consider changing his position "when researchers came up with a definitive explanation for the cause of homosexuality," according to The New York Times. These homophobic comments prompted Robert Ohrenstein, Glenn's New York State campaign manager (and Majority Leader in the New York State Senate), to quit the campaign, arguing that Glenn's statements "called into question" his other civil rights positions. Gay and lesbian leaders have urged their supporters to campaign against Glenn. "I thought we had to do everything to get Reagan out," said Allen Roskoff, a N.Y. gay activist. "Now we have to do everything we can to keep Glenn out."

Another candidate who sharply disagrees with Glenn is black leader Jesse Jackson, (over)

ORGANIZATIONAL

If you haven't renewed your membership dues within the past year, please do it as soon as you can. All work for BROTHER and other activities of the N.O.M. is done by unpaid volunteers. We are careful about even small expenditures. Nonetheless there are many expenses that we cannot avoid. Your annual dues are our only source of funds. Use the response form on the back page of BROTHER, and send your dues renewal now.

Announcements

BROTHER and M. magazine, the other major publication of the anti-sexist men's movement, have agreed to coordinate our coverage of the movement and our publication dates. We will not duplicate stories that M. has covered. M. will carry several pages in each issue devoted to news from the N.O.M. The two publications will remain different in style, personnel, and depth of coverage. We suggest that members of the N.O.M. subscribe to M. magazine. By receiving both M. and BROTHER, you will get news about the men's movement on a more frequent basis. See M.'s advertisement on the last page of this issue.

Spring Council Election

The National Council of the N.O.M. is a democratically elected 18-member group which meets annually, during the national conference, to make plans and decisions concerning the organization. Its major function is to elect the 30 or more action positions which will conduct the activities of the organization for the coming year. Members of the Council serve for two-year terms. Eight Council positions will be filled by a vote of the organization's membership early this Spring. Interested members are invited to nominate themselves for positions on the Council. For procedural requirements write to the N.O.M. Managerial Committee: 5512 Bartlett St., Pittsburgh PA 15217. Completed nominations should be returned to the committee by April 1, 1984.

ROCHESTER MEN'S NETWORK: The RMN has sponsored a variety of programs this fall and winter, including Betsy Rose and Fred Small's "Building Bridges" concert and workshop, "Father and Son: A Chip off the Old Black?", and "What? Me Angry?" For information on future activities and programs, contact RMN at PO Box 10514, Rochester, NY 14610.

(Rainbow, continued)

who was the keynote speaker at this year's Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner. Mondale had been the keynote speaker last year. Mondale also recently became the first-ever presidential candidate to be endorsed by the National Organization For Women. A few months earlier, he was the first Democratic candidate to receive the endorsement of the AFL-CIO prior to the Democratic nomination. Speculation has been increasing that Mondale will select either Jackson or one of several women leaders Vice President if he receives the nomination.

The Male / Female Relationships task group would like to have a planning and get-acquainted meeting, in the Maryland, Delaware, Philadelphia, & Central New Jersey area, in late March. Those in the 4-state area who are interested should contact Robert Quinn-O'Connor, 714 S. 19 St. #4, Philadelphia PA 19146, (215) 545-3631; or Joyce Jennings, 2 April Lane, Ardencroft, Wilmington DE 19810, (302) 475-0693.



Jennings

NEW TASK GROUP PROPOSED: A task group is being proposed for Men in Non-Traditional Roles, to address the issues of men who work with young people for example, or in other non-traditional fields such as nursing. Write to Terry Fahey, 4811 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

NEW TASK GROUP PROPOSED: A task group on Male Mental Health is also being proposed. Write to Murray Scher, 905 1/2 Tusculum Blvd., Greenville, TN 37743.

The Gay Movement: From Radicalism

by Martin Bauml Duberman

to Reformism

Last fall's dinner for Walter Mondale at the Waldorf Astoria generated considerable controversy. Hailed by some as the breakthrough for the gay movement into mainstream political legitimacy, others--myself included--saw it symbolizing a negative turning point: the abandonment of gay politics as a movement for liberation.



Martin Duberman

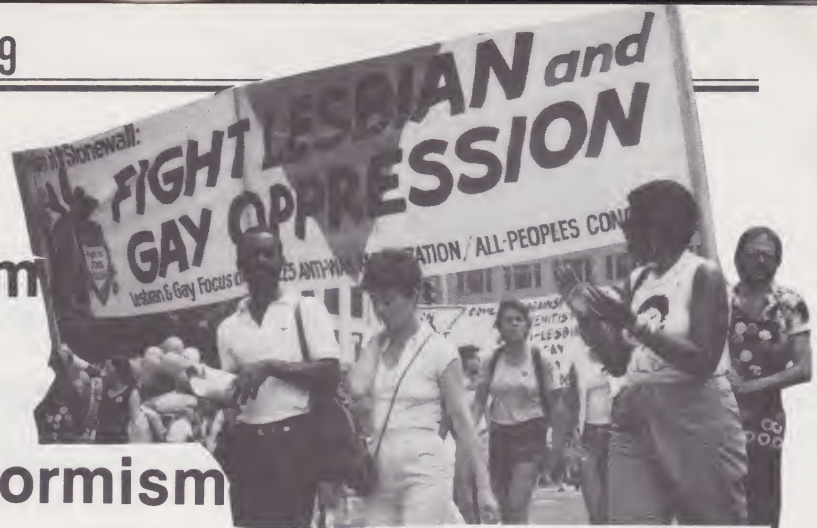
From the latter view, the audience's lopsided composition--overwhelmingly white, monied, male--plus the effusive standing ovation it gave Mondale's shabby, evasive speech, proved chilling confirmation of the movement's profound change; of the sweeping way it has shed all trace of its radical roots, disowning the trenchant critique and angry denunciation it once offered to the highly concentrated loci of power and privilege which actually characterize our so-called 'egalitarian' democracy.

With this shift of priorities, the gay movement is now characterized by a rush to embrace centrist values and political tactics, an emphasis on establishing a respect-

table image as 'jes folks', refocusing energy towards gaining acceptance and greater access to sanctums of power. As the black tied diners demonstrated, the official gay movement has finally managed to secure the allegiance of prosperous white male recruits who had previously disdained association to a movement they regarded as controlled by "impractical" noisome visionaries.

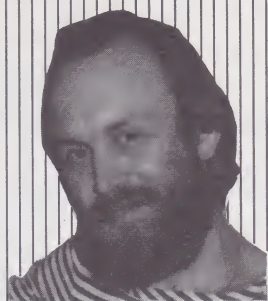
The change has been swift in recent years. The more those who earlier eschewed the gay movement have now joined up in large numbers, swelling the rolls of its national organizations, the more their bland deportment and narrow social perspectives have come to dominate the official movement: "upgrading our image, while diluting demands for substantive social change, shifting organizational policies into comfortable conformity with their own reformist goals.

This is a development not uncommon, alas, in the history of our nation's protest movements. Originating in fierce anger and initially marked by broad-gauged demands for social change, they rapidly evolve into well-behaved self-protective associations, and in the process abandon demands for changing the vast inequities in our social



WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING

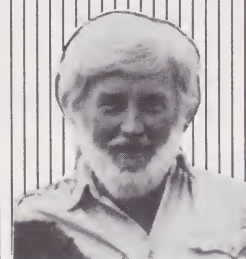




Don Long



Tom Mosmiller



Harold Wells

Report From The Chair Committee

The three of us have been enjoying the first months of our work as coordinators of this organization. In the time since Ann Arbor, we have been clarifying individual responsibilities and developing internal movement structure. We have had monthly 3-way conference calls, plus more frequent two-way calls and letters. We have divided up the Chair responsibilities as follows: Tom is working mainly with budgetary and

financial matters, and will coordinate membership mailings. Don is working with the National Task Groups, and as liason to BROTHER. Harold is communicating with the Action Position holders, and is our liason with the national conference planners.

NETWORKING: Despite the familiar problems of geographic separation, the men's movement has seemed more unified and cohesive this Fall, as a number of men

(Continued on p. 12)

(Duberman, continued)

system, substituting (at best) token liberalism.

No movement born to protest social inequality can hope to accomplish contradictory purposes. In its current guise, the gay movement may well succeed in gaining broader acceptance to the pre-existing clubhouses of power, but it can never pretend that is centrally devoted to any struggle for improving the lot of the many. The gay movement cannot opt for putting its main energy towards increasing mainstream America's approval, and simultaneously pretend not to have jettisoned its earlier determination to address the plight of all gay people: the invisibility of lesbians, the discrimination against non-whites, the scornful disregard of the rural poor.

Which of the multiplying gay organizations is currently directing its struggle on behalf of those non-affluent, non-privileged gays who constitute our actual majority, who everywhere dot the land, doing its dirty work, unacknowledged and unorganized, self-esteem disfigured, future hopes minimal? Who among the leaders of our burgeoning gay officialdom speaks to their needs, acknowledges their existence? When has one of those proliferating week-long strategy conferences that our national organizations proudly sponsor included such concerns in its agenda, or issued in its imposing concluding Statements of Purpose any awareness of the terrible daily burdens which weigh down the lives of so many of our people? Having at one period attended many such gatherings, I bear my share of responsibility for this callousness, now endemic.

The gay movement, radical at its inception, has today lost courage. Its national organizations are currently dominated by skilled lobbyists pressing for narrow assimilationist goals through traditional political channels, the chief priority shifting from meeting the needs of the dispossessed many to winning acceptance for the most conformist, most conservative, mostly privileged, mostly male few.

It is a perilous path. The drive to establish our credentials as mainstream Americans is inextricably yoked to de-emphasizing our "differentness"--tantamount to falsifying our unique historical experience and the subculture it generated. The result is not only to rob gay people of their heritage but also to negate the potential contribution our "off-center" lifestyle(s) held out for revitalizing stagnant mainstream mores--for example, about the nature of "partnership," and possible new configurations of the "family," gender, and friendship.

The "official"--organized, national--gay movement's current emphasis on winning short-term gains for the few has produced its notable successes and increased "tolerance," but conceivably at the expense of exacting any substantive, long-range impact we might have had on the nation's institutionalized inequalities. The more we press for limited gains, the more we twist our identity to conform with mainstream values, the more we jeopardize our chance to offer new perspectives and values to a nation desperately in need of moral regeneration.

Who's Working For The Men's Movement?

A number of new faces have appeared in important jobs (our "Action Positions") in the National Organization this year. They are all donating their time and energies to build the men's movement nationally...

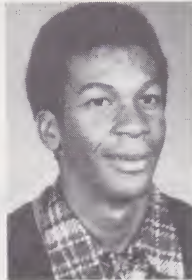
GEORGE LOVELAND (Charleston, Illinois) is heading our essential Membership Roster Committee. George keeps a computerized list of our names & addresses, and prints our mailing labels. Entering new memberships (and changes of address) has been keeping him busy this Fall; we're all grateful for his skill and dedication. If you move, notify George at PO Box 93, Charleston Illinois 61920.



Loveland

special report elsewhere in this issue.

TONY BELL is heading our Committee on the Special Concerns of Ethnic Men of Color. Send your questions, ideas, and suggestions to Tony at 4917 McPherson #30 S, St. Louis, MO 63108.



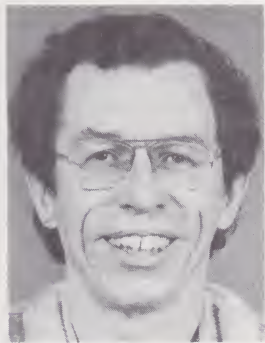
Bell

BOB JENNINGS, BOB MORGAN, JOYCE SCHER, MICHAEL BARRY SHAPIRO, and GORDON CLAY are members of the Committee on Organizational Growth. They will be

working on membership recruitment materials and ideas. Send your suggestions to Bob at 5512 Bartlett St., Pittsburgh PA 15217.

JEFF BEANE is the chair of our National Conference Committee, with help from TONY BELL and HAROLD WELLS. Jeff has been actively working with the Washington DC group to plan the 9th National Conference.

DAVE MATTESON, with back-up help from



Matteson

MARC CHATON and DALE GILSDORF, is chairing our Communications Committee. They now receive and either answer or forward your questions and inquiries about the organization. Write to Dave at 814 Blackhawk, Park Forest So., Illinois 60466.

ART STAWINSKI (Chicago, IL) and BOB ANGUS (Columbus, OH) are co-chairing the Committee on Men's Movement Literature, which will be assembling a



Brown

library of books, articles, and other written materials about the movement.

STEVEN BROWN (Berkeley CA), ROBERT WEMPNER (Waconia, MN), and DOUGLAS CHENE (Chicago IL) are our Committee on Membership Mailings. They did the work of addressing and mailing this issue of BROTHER, and will send the other mailings you'll be receiving this year.

The Spokesperson Committee, which communicates the goals and activities of the organization to the public, is now being chaired by BOB BRANNON.

Several important "Liason Committees" are charged with communications with other relevant organizations:

Liason to Feminist Women's Groups: DON LONG, 4350 McPherson, St. Louis, MO 63108.

Liason to Religious & Spiritual Groups: STEVE LABACZ (816 S. Illinois Av., Carbondale IL 60657) and GEORGE LOVELAND.

Liason to "Men's Rights" Groups: ALAN GROSS, 1221 Edge Vale Rd., Silver Springs MD 20910.



Smith & Wallston

BARBARA WALLSTON (Nashville, TN) and RON SMITH (Washington DC) make up our Treasury Committee, and are planning and allocating our expenditures.

The Publications Committee, which produces BROTHER, this year includes JOE PLECK, MICHAEL KIMMEL, BOB BRANNON, BARRY SHAPIRO, and SIDNEY MILLER, and is seeking other members (see notice on p. 6).

And at the center of everything, coordinating all of the above tasks and generally directing the progress of the organization, is the Chairpersons Committee. Serving as our Chairpersons for 1983-84 are: DON LONG (St. Louis), TOM MOSMILLER (Oakland), and HAROLD WELLS (Des Moines). (See the Chair Committee's report elsewhere in this issue.)

Last year, there were only three people serving in Action Positions in this organization. The growth in our active leadership - all members serving without pay, and working to build the men's movement - is the clearest indication of the progress we're making.

(CHAIR COMMITTEE, continued)

traveled long distances to share ideas and make connections. Armando Smith came from Chicago to the California Men's Gathering. Armando, Bob Brannon, and Harold Wells all traveled to the Minnesota conference. Tom Mosmiller came from California to Massachusetts to attend the Northeastern conference; while in the East Tom had meetings with the BROTHER committee and with the National Conference Committee in Washington. In December, Jeff Beane made the first of several trips from Los Angeles to Washington to meet with the Washington Committee. Harold Wells is representing the United States on the planning committee for an International Conference on Men's Studies, to be held in the United Kingdom in 1985.

In the same spirit of growing cooperation within the movement, M. Magazine and the BROTHER Committee have been developing a good working relationship (partly through the offices of Michael Kimmel, who is a member of both). We'd like to extend our special thanks to the M. collective, for the positive relationship they are developing with the national organization. We are planning a DUES RENEWAL mailing, which will reach you early in 1984. Here's your chance not only to guarantee delivery of BROTHER to your own door, but also to purchase a gift membership for a friend. (At least do a little sales pitch to friends, about the joys of membership in our growing anti-sexist, gay-affirmative changing men's

organization.) And please be prompt about sending in your own dues renewal.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES are an important priority for this organization. We were born out of local and regional grassroots activity, and remain committed to it. Five regional meetings have taken place since Ann Arbor. This National Organization very strongly encourages regional development, and welcomes suggestions and input from all regional and local men's groups.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: It's exciting to think that even now, in mid-Winter, much work is going into preparation for the 9th National Men and Masculinity Conference, June 30-July 3 in Washington DC. Special thanks are due (already) to Tim McGaughey, Conference Coordinator; Jeff Beane, of our National Conference Committee; and Alan Gross, our Council representative in DC. (Anyone who wants to help with the conference, and especially those in the DC area, may write to: PO Box 76132, Washington, DC 20013.)

Begin making your own plans NOW to attend next Summer. Organize in your men's group, or organization, to bring more men this time from your area. Let's try to bring some men who have never been to a men's conference. We who've attended many conferences in the past tend to forget what that first experience was like. That sense of coming home, of being with men that affirm who you are, of finding a place... is an experience that many other men in this country have yet to discover.

(Continued from p. 2)

the rest of the world generally seems exhausting, futile, and heartbreaking.

But some of us just can't resist the Impossible Dream... of actually changing this whole society. Of reducing, and eventually eliminating, sexism, homophobia, racism, militarism, and the confining straight-jackets of narrow sex roles for men and women. We fantasize about challenging and transforming the entrenched patriarchal system - not because that seems likely to be easy, or fun, but because it's what really matters.

I have admittedly suffered from this fantasy. I thought a lot about the progress and the problems of our men's movement during the past year. Despite our progress, we're not exactly a major force in American life. The average well-informed man in the United States still probably doesn't know that we exist. And the saddest part is that he could surely benefit a great deal from what we have learned about masculinity and men's happiness, about men's relationships with women, and with other men, about gayness, and the burden of homophobia.

Will the time ever come when this movement will be large and visible enough to reach the millions of American men who could benefit from it? And how would we



get to that point? I don't have a crystal ball, but here is a list of seven things I think we would inevitably need to do in order to have much positive impact on the larger society. This list is undoubtedly incomplete, and arbitrary, but it might throw

some light on what we still need to do and on what we've already accomplished.

Step 1. Developing a coherent anti-sexist men's ideology. This was a major issue for us. At a minimum we had to think about men's and women's separate sex-role issues, relate both of these to the reality of men's power in patriarchy, and show the connections of both to oppression based on sexual orientation. In the early 1970's much of this was unclear. The interconnections of these issues preoccupied us for a long while, until perhaps around 1980. This integration is not complete even now, but we've developed a consensus on the most basic issues.

Step 2. Bringing the existing movement into a reasonably unified network. This was probably our major achievement of the past year. After some initial hesitancy, all of the major elements within the existing loose-knit men's movement have begun to participate in the national organization. The N.O.M. in turn is encouraging the growth of regional and

(Continued on p. 22)

Taking Sexual Harassment Seriously

- San Francisco: Irene Sanchez hurries to catch the corner trolley. The four young men emerging from the donut shop across the street notice her, and give out a chorus of catcalls. Irene appears calm. She's not.

- Boston: Helen Tobias scowls as she leaves her teaching assistant's office. "He can't have meant that he'd change my grade if I'd go to bed with him. It's so gross to joke that way..."

- Chicago: Agnes Fortier moves her chair back, trying gracefully to let her manager know that she doesn't want him standing so close to her and brushing her breast as he reaches across to point to some item in the report she's typing for him. He's not deterred.

- Atlanta: Gloria Hawkins is discovered by the morning maintenance crew. She has been hog-tied, gagged, and suspended from an overhead industrial fixture. She does not press charges against her co-workers. "If that's what they do when they're just kidding around, I'd hate to think what they'd do if they were really angry with me." She quits the job.

For most men, most of the time, sexual harassment is taken about as seriously as a dirty joke. In fact, it is a dirty business and no laughing matter. It affects almost half of all working women at some time in their lives: keeping them from accepting jobs, or from retaining ones that they hold (Lin Farley, Sexual Shakedown, Warner, 1978). Sexual harassment is the cutting edge of sexism, severing women's good feelings about men, and often about themselves, from easy and natural expression.

What is sexual harassment? It takes many forms, from the extreme of attempted rape to unrelenting sexual innuendoes; from street hassles to photos of nudes hanging on



office walls. Workplace harassment, generally, is any behavior of a sexual nature that pesters, bothers, annoys, degrades, humiliates, or intimidates another worker - usually a woman - and prevents her from enjoying a sex-neutral work environment. Men as well as women can be victims of sexual harassment, and the law protects both equally. Statistics indicate however that women are harassed five times more often than men.

Alan Campbell, director of the Federal Office of Personnel Management, defines sexual harassment as "deliberate or repeated unsolicited verbal comments, gestures or physical contact of a sexual nature which are unwelcome." Sexual teasing, jokes, remarks, suggestive looks, pressure for dates, repeated phone calls, letters, cornering, touching, or pinching when they are unwelcome and unwanted, constitute sexual harassment. The key word is "unwanted."

(over)

Not all sexual attention at work is harassment. A sexual harassment prevention program is not aimed at discouraging sexual attraction or sexuality among workers. These programs clarify however what is appropriate, and which behaviors rob individuals of their right to work without sexual harassment.

Traditionally, sexual harassment functioned to keep women out of jobs that had been held exclusively by men. It discouraged women from seeking certain kinds of work, and could drive women out of the workplace once hired. But other motives are evident too. By treating women as sex objects ("girls") rather than co-workers and full colleagues, some men attempt to keep women out of real competition for career recognition and rewards, hoping to eclipse their professional competence with compliments about their appearance and attractiveness. Other men see an opportunity to exploit their power over women at work to gain sexual advantages that they could not otherwise expect. As Catherine MacKinnon writes, "...harassment is sexual attention imposed on someone who is not in a position to refuse it."

"Don't let this hard-on fool you.
I'm not like the others."



Jokes about the "casting couch" in the entertainment industry symbolize a sardonic acceptance of sexual harassment. It is hard to imagine how this extortion has been taken so lightly for so long. Compromising someone's sexual integrity for a job opportunity is, after all, unfair, unethical, and illegal. Yet it was only in the last decade that sexual harassment has been interpreted by the courts as a violation of the 1966 Civil Rights Act. Several landmark court decisions, with astronomically high monetary settlements, have finally forced government and business to become aware of this issue's seriousness. The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board has calculated that in indirect costs alone, not including in or out of court settlements, sexual harassment now costs the government \$189 million every two years.

Lower productivity, reduced morale, absenteeism, increased medical expenses and leaves, higher turn-over, lost contracts, tarnished corporate reputations, and large court settlements are among the costs of sexual harassment. Yet managers still tend to ignore or minimize the issue, preferring to think that if it does exist, it's someone else's problem.

In reality it seems to be everyone's problem. A recent news article described how the Academic Senate of the University of California voted this fall to ban romantic relationships between faculty members and students in their classes, because "such relationships raise questions of fairness..." "Everybody knows" responded one UCLA professor, "that teachers shouldn't sleep with students. Some things are so obvious that they shouldn't be in the rule book. Recent headlines ("Judge Charged in Sex Case"; "Sonoma Sheriff Hit for Sexual Harassment - \$13 Million"; "Sex Harassment at the FBI") indicate however that the problem exists almost everywhere.

While many instances of sexual harassment are deliberate and even malicious, in other instances it is the result of insensitivity and misinformation. Harassment is, in many cases, bad taste gone rampant, aided by the victim's fear of expressing her displeasure clearly and forcefully. Old myths blind men to the realities of sexual harassment: "Women want to be told that they are attractive, and the workplace is no exception"; "You can't blame a guy for trying" "For a woman, getting sexually hustled at work is just part of the job, it comes with the territory..."

Incredibly, over 50% of American women either quit, get fired, or refuse to take a job because of sexual harassment. This country must commit itself to overcoming the ignorance and prejudice that cause such hardship and grief, and rob the nation of its human resources. Men need to become aware of what constitutes sexual harassment, and how it can be avoided. Women need assurance that resisting sexual harassment will not result in retaliation.

The National Organization for Men has launched a Task Group on Sexual Harassment Prevention. I work as a trainer and consultant on sexual harassment prevention to public and private organizations, and have convened the group. The task group will: (1) research and develop materials and programs that alert men and women to the issue of sexual harassment; (2) design methods of preventing sexual harassment, and assist men in becoming allies of victims; (3) collect and share information about new books, articles, films, and other resources; (4) network with other concerned organizations; (5) identify agencies and individuals who conduct training programs; and, (6) communicate information through a newsletter, including legal updates, innovative procedures, and strategies for handling sexual harassment.

For more information about the task group, write to Barry Shapiro, 447 Hoffman Ave., San Francisco, CA 94114, or call (415) 821-9113.



Northeastern Men's Conference

A few weeks afterward, one man declared that this was the best men's conference he'd ever attended. In fact, virtually all the 250 participants seemed to agree that the Northeastern Regional Conference, held Nov. 4-6 in Amherst, Mass. was a huge success. Outstanding preparation by coordinator Steven Botkin, along with David Greif, Sam Femiano, David Thompson, Robert McClelland, Dick McLeester, Ken Fremont-Smith, Steve Schapiro, Dan Burgess and many others resulted in a smoothly functioning atmosphere where every thing happened on schedule, with no visible panic or last-minute problems.

The Friday night opening session was inspirational, with eight different speakers raising issues and ideas for the weekend. Bob Brannon, Joe Pleck, John Stoltenberg, Bob Freeston, Ken Fremont-Smith, Mark Nickerson, Sidney Miller, and Tom Mosmiller each spoke; the unusual format was effective, and clearly emphasized the diversity and the growing ideological unity of the men's movement.

Saturday followed with a range of very good workshops, and a special 2-hour period devoted to local organizing. After hearing a report from Jim Covington about the N.Y. Center for Men and from other successful local groups, each area met separately to discuss local organizing possibilities.

The day culminated with

spectacular entertainment: Gary Lapow ("Tell It From The Heart!") from Berkeley was featured, along with Boston's Willie Sordill, and East coast newcomer Elliot Pilshaw. Alternating with the music were men's movement poets Sidney Miller, Steven Riel, and Robert Smyth. Miller stirred the appreciative audience to howls of laughter and applause with several memorable poems... the mix of music and poetry made a delightful evening.

But the major organizational event of the conference was still to come. On Sunday, the new Co-Chair of The National Organization for Men, Tom Mosmiller, addressed the conference. Describing the regional activities of CAMP Caucus in California, and invoking the memory of Northeastern men in the 19th Century who had opposed sexism and narrow male roles, Tom urged the conference to consider forming a regional men's organization in the East.

In the plenary session that followed, movement veterans Perry Kaufman and Robert McClelland facilitated a long and spirited discussion. After more than an hour, the conference voted overwhelmingly to elect a 25-member Regional Planning Committee to begin the process of forming a Regional Organization.

At the closing ceremony, Steven Botkin asked everyone to make one personal hope for the future, and to symbolically send it out to the world... in a balloon! It was a beautiful sight to see hundreds of bright balloons, a rainbow of cheerful

(over)



(Northeastern, continued)

colors, floating into the gray New England sky, with all our hopes for a better world for men and women.

Some helium had leaked, and some of the balloons didn't fly. They settled sadly onto the pavement. Some of our hopes perhaps won't fly either, at least for a long while. But we were a community of caring people that weekend in Amherst, growing in strength and experience, and with a vision that united us. The men's movement had come a long way in the Northeast, in the past year.



California Men's Gathering

The Sixth Annual California Men's Gathering was held October 7-10 at Camp Loma Mar in the redwoods south of San Francisco. Over 250 men came to participate in workshops on racism, AIDS, male violence, children, classism, movement, and play. the theme of the CMG was "Reaching Out to Change" and the increased participation of physically challenged, sexual minority and Third World men showed how committed was the planning committee itself to reaching out. Two high points were a Fairie Circle and a dramatic production on the experience of Vietnam veterans called "Honey Bucket." Presentations were made by representatives of the National Men's Organization and the California Anti-sexist Men's Political (CAMP) caucus. Cultural events included singers Blackberri and Gary Lapow, as well as comedy, dance, and poetry. The 7th Annual CMG will be September 9, 1984 at Pilgrim Pines in Yucaipa, about 2 hours east of Los Angeles. -Glen Fitch

MIAMI CONFERENCE: The Men's Center of South Florida and Florida International University co-sponsored a conference on "Men Today: Changes, Challenges, Choices" on November 5. James O'Neill of the University of Connecticut gave a keynote presentation on "New Understanding of the Male Mystique."

TUCSON MEN'S COOPERATIVE: The TMC announces a variety of activities including monthly potlucks, men's support and consciousness raising groups, workshops, a speaker's bureau, and networking. Address: PO Box 41501 Tucson, AZ 85717.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

by Armando Smith

I volunteered to chair the Committee for Local and Regional Organization because I am convinced that the strength of the National Organization will depend largely on the strength of the regional groups. This belief was reinforced this Fall when I was able to attend two regional conferences, the California Men's Gathering and the Upper Midwest Men's Conference.

The CMG was, as I had expected, a learning experience. The men in California began to organize almost ten years ago, and their experience was evident. The personal issue workshops were neither forced nor contrived, but open forums that safely allowed the expression of inner struggles, and promoted self-insight.

I flew directly from California to the Upper Midwest Conference. Whereas the CMG was held at a remote retreat, and attended mostly by movement veterans, the Minneapolis conference was set at an urban college and many of the men present were attending their first men's event. But these differences were only superficial; the men in Minnesota were no less concerned or committed. At both conferences there was strong support for the N.O.M., but we were also questioned, challenged, and given ideas for the organization.

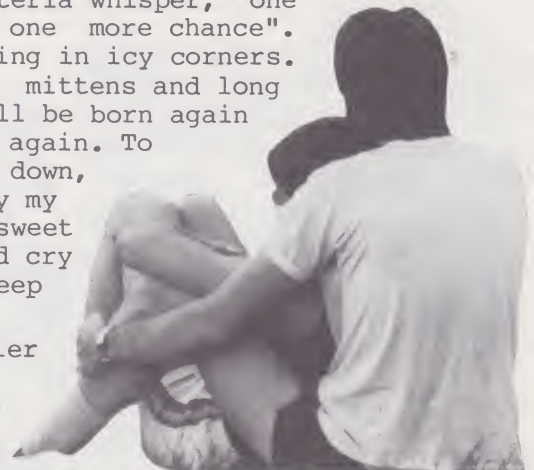
There were other regional conferences in the Northeast, Colorado, and Florida which I was not able to attend. All this regional activity is welcome and exciting; I hope it is the beginning of an strong and effective regional network.

The job of encouraging and assisting regional men's organizations cannot be done by one person. It's a job that we all can and must play a part it. If you are interested in this work, or have information on activities in your region, please call or write to me at: 126 Callan, Evanston IL 60202; (312) 328-6328.

some other spring

Wakening wisteria whisper, "one more taste, one more chance".
Enough huddling in icy corners.
To hell with mittens and long johns. I will be born again before I die again. To please break down, to please lay my head on the sweet new grass and cry myself to sleep

- Sidney Miller



The Upper Midwest Men's Conference in Minneapolis/St. Paul (Oct. 14-16) was out-standing. It had enthusiasm, diversity, spirit, thoughtfulness, stimulating speeches, good facilities, organization, and a feeling of brotherhood in abundance.

The men's cultural entertainment in particular was exhilarating. Geof Morgan, with his beautiful voice and melodies, and clever, thoughtful lyrics, was a featured performer. Romanovsky & Phillips were there too, and were sensational - alternately sad, touching, eloquent, poignant, and hilarious.



Becky Kent, a Lesbian comic, got an enthusiastic reception, and joined with Tom Wilson-Weinberg in a memorable duet. And two Minnesota men introduced something new to men's conferences: the ancient art of storytelling. Mike Cotter, a craggy farmer in his 50's, and David Zander, an anthropologist & world-traveler

relieved the musicians with amusing and often pointed stories which made a delightful change of pace. But perhaps the



Dworkin's Challenge

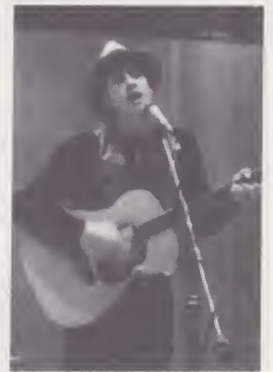
A dramatic highlight of the Upper Midwest Men's Conference was the keynote address of radical feminist Andrea Dworkin (author of Woman-Hating, Our Blood, Right-Wing Women, & other works). Dworkin began by saying that she had thought for a long time about... "what to say to a group of men, who say... they're against sexism." (Anyone expecting a congratulatory pat on the back immediately saw they were in for a



Midwest Men's Conference

largest single contribution to the excellent entertainment at this conference was its own multi-talented coordinator, performer, and m-c, Ray Makeever. Whether singing, leading a chorus, or making announcements, Makeever had a light, poised touch and a reassuring presence and style that held everything together.

The workshops and other substantive events were also excellent, and provided a good mix of issues. By general consensus, Prentiss Cox was the person most responsible for the clear, thoughtful tone of these offerings. Gary Wilson, Jim Lovestart, Bob Wempner, Dave McAllister, Brian Berg, Michael Luft, Dick Beamer, Mark Raderstorf, Jim Warhol, Craig Wilkins, and Gustavo Gomez all worked extremely hard to make this conference a success.



Minnesota

surprise.) Dworkin acknowledged that men's psychological sex role issues are important; she devoted her fiery and eloquent speech entirely however to other "men's issues" that interest her more: male violence, rape, and the growing flood of slick, violent pornography that contributes to and justifies sexual violence. And she wanted to know what if anything we as men were willing to do about these horrors. "Don't tell me if you don't approve of pornography", she challenged, "I'm just a woman. I have no power at all. Don't just quietly tell your feminist friends. Go tell the pornographers. Tell the pimps! Tell the men who are doing it. Tell them publically, so that we can see it. Then, we'll take you more seriously."



Prentiss Cox

In closing, Dworkin stated why she had decided to come, for the first time, to a

(over)

(Dworkin, continued)

men's conference: "Against all evidence, I believe that you are equal to us in your capacity for compassion, for empathy, for integrity."

The eloquent author received a respectful and generally positive reception, though the audience's reaction to the controversial speech was inevitably mixed. One man called it "magnificent;" another said "It wasn't constructive." But even those who did not accept the argument agreed that Dworkin had given a brilliant speech.

EDITORIAL

The anti-sexist men's movement has generally been applauded, and viewed as an ally, by most feminist women and women's organizations. Some, and especially "radical" feminists, have remained cautious and reserved judgement. No matter how un-

congratulatory she chose to be, Dworkin's decision to come to the Minnesota conference was a significant gesture.

Radical feminists have no sole monopoly on truth. They have a remarkable record however of seeing many things sooner, and clearer, than anyone else did. College sophomores of both sexes today routinely make connections that were called "too far out" just a few years ago when voiced by Kate Millet, Robin Morgan, Susan Brownmiller, Andrea Dworkin, and their sisters.

Radical feminist positions and analyses have not been structured or styled to appeal to or convince men. Many men find it hard to hear them. Yet it is obvious that they raise questions that cut to the very heart of patriarchal politics, questions that confront squarely the issue of justice. It is essential for us to hear their perspective, feel their rage, and think about their arguments.



Mens' studies is a young field with many indications of rapid growth. Both in the popular media and in scholarly publications, men's consciousness is emerging as a key issue of the 1980's. I think of men's studies as the male component of what is coming to be called "gender studies" rather than women's studies, a significant new field generated by the achievements of feminist scholarship. Traditional scholarship considered man the norm, and woman forever the 'other', the problem to be solved, the datum to be explained. "Women's studies" alone does not directly challenge this assumption. No scholarly tour de force in examining women's lives can remove the assumption of exceptionality, unless the status of men is equally questioned, and misinformed generalities about men are replaced by real knowledge. In falsely generalizing man as "male" to man as "human" we have obliterated the specificities of both women's and men's lives. Libraries have not listed the categories "male" or "masculinity." Men's studies demonstrates that the only way to disempower the pseudo-universality of generic "man" is to study man as particular. While this is not the place for a survey of



What Is MEN'S STUDIES?

by Harry Brod

of masculinity. We need analyses from this perspective of Plato's philosopher-ruler, Machiavelli's prince, Hobbes's natural man, and Rousseau's Emile, to name a few. This analysis would show how specific aspects of male experience have been either idealized or ignored, to the detriment of both men and women.

Men's studies opens up many new possibilities, which will be explored in the Men's Studies Task Group and its newsletter. The Task Group welcomes anyone interested in the collaborative enterprise of expanding our knowledge of the realities of men's lives.

THANK YOU! Jim Creane has saved the organization hundreds of dollars, through his pragmatic approach to communications optimization.


Task Group Report:

current work in men's studies, one landmark is Joseph Pleck's important reevaluation of the dominant psychological paradigm, The Myth of Masculinity, which includes a list of "Resources for Male Role Studies" as well as a bibliography. To give just one example from my own field, the history of political theory contains an as yet insufficiently analyzed hidden history

Report On The

Task Groups

by Don Long



This organization has placed much of the responsibility for action in the hands of its Task Groups. We do not want to have a small coterie of leaders who do all the theorizing, leading and directing. That old style of "leadership" has outlived its usefulness to all of us. We all have the vision and the talent to help the men of the United States change their course.

The destructiveness of the patriarchal system must, and can be, transformed into a holistic, self-loving, life-preserving co-operative structure, that will insure our individual and collective survival. We are by no means the only movement leading toward this change. We are perhaps the only movement made up of those who, by birth, have access to positions of power in the old system. That gives us a different kind of responsibility - not a burden or onus of guilt, but the charge to respond where we are needed. And response means action. It is our activism, much more than our theories, that will affect our future.

Many of the National Task Groups that we launched a few months ago are just now becoming active. The difficulties of building nationwide networks from scratch are obvious, so we should have realistic expectations during this first year. There has been progress however. In addition to news mentioned elsewhere in this issue:

The Men's Studies group (coordinator, Harry Brod) has just sent out its first issue of the Men's Studies Newsletter, a 4-page bulletin filled with interesting news.

The Pornography Task Group (coordinators, John Stoltenberg, Bob Brannon, & Michael Kimmel) has conducted a workshop, is preparing a mailing to its membership,

and will co-sponsor a conference on pornography in Amherst Mass. in April.

The Male/Female Relationships group (Larry Rosen, Joyce Jennings, Neal Aponte, Terry Burrows, & Judy Humphrey) is preparing its newsletter and planning one regional gathering (See Announcements).

The Homophobia group (coordinator, Cooper Thompson) has recently sent several mailings to members and is planning a series of workshops at the national Conference.

The Men's Health group has sent a mailing to its members and has developed a sizable agenda for the coming year, according to coordinator Dennis Green.

The Media Images of Men group (coordinator, Michael Scher) has sent a mailing to its membership, and is now deciding on media targets for the coming year.

The Men's Culture group (coordinated by Geof Morgan, John Paul, Willie Sordill, & Sidney Miller) is beginning work on a Newsletter, and is involved in the advance planning for the National Conference.

The following groups have not yet become officially established, because no one has yet volunteered to serve as coordinator: Consciousness-Raising; Gay Rights, Racism & Sex Roles, Men & Sports, and Rape & Sexual Violence.

Four other groups have been proposed, but have so far attracted fewer than ten members, and no volunteer for coordinator: Work & Job Satisfaction, Men and Aging, Men & The Military, and The E.R.A..

ALL OF THE GROUPS MENTIONED ABOVE WELCOME ADDITIONAL MEMBERS! Use the Form on the last page. Volunteers are also requested for those which do not yet have coordinators. Use the same Form, or call Don Long at (314) 533-3107.

Become Famous: Contribute to BROTHER

We invite short (eg. 250-500 wd) articles or statements about men's issues or accounts of local and regional movement activities. Send inquiries (or submissions) (four Xerox copies, please) to Joe Pleck, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, Wellesley MA 02181. For acknowledgements, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Send poetry, short fiction, and other creative material to Sidney Miller, 1450 Pallisade Ave, Ft. Lee NJ 07024.

We especially invite relevant movie reviews, book reviews, and music reviews. Send inquiries (or submissions) to Michael Kimmel, 310 W. 107 St 1-C, NY NY 10025.

We need your photos! Send photographs (with photo-credit line) and Letters-to-the-Editor to Barry Shapiro, 447 Hoffman, San Francisco CA 94114.

Is There Another National Organization For Men? (Well, Not Really)

Spokesperson Report:

- Bob Brannon

Some of our members were startled this past August to hear a news report about a group of men opposed to women's rights, and calling itself (wouldn't you know it)... "The National Organization for Men". This news had been announced at a local restaurant by Sidney Siller, a writer who was, coincidentally, also beginning a "men's rights" column in Penthouse magazine. For several days the media carried tongue-in-cheek stories about "poor oppressed men." One newspaper dubbed him "Sidney Silly", and in a few days the stories disappeared.

I was distressed however about the name. Several phone calls to the Penthouse office disclosed that Siller was the "group's" only active member, and that the "organization" was actually a publicity ploy, staged by Siller and his boss: Bob Guccione, the Editor and Publisher of Penthouse.

I'd seen Guccione before: almost a cartoon caricature of the cynical, decadent multi-millionaire Porno-Publisher, with his oily charm, his carefully unbuttoned shirts and heavy gold chains, and his leering, amphibian-like eyes (the pupils slit open vertically, like a cat's). Echh!! You watch him two minutes on TV and you want to go wash yourself.

And these sleazos had just gotten more publicity, with one phony announcement, than we had ever been able to get for a genuine and important social movement of American men.

Then I received a call from the popular N.Y. TV show, "Midday with Bill Boggs", inviting me on behalf of the N.O.M. to a four-way debate with Siller, a representative of NOW, and a woman from the pro-family



right-to-life movement. Six million daily viewers, they said.

The irony was almost painful. In the past year everyone from The New York Times to Ms. Magazine had decided, for various reasons, not to publish anything about us. The liberal establishment. And now, because of a fake publicity stunt by a slick porno-magazine, we might get a chance to reach a lot of new men and women.

I arrive at the studio after battling traffic, with my 12-year-old daughter Beth and one of her friends for support. Siller walks in, surrounded by a crowd of well-dressed Penthouse employees, white-haired, looking like a candidate for Mayor of Staten Island. He's passing out stacks of hundreds of copies of his latest column. Just a reprint of the column: no copies of



Penthouse in sight. (See folks, no dirty pictures, real high-class.) He cordially introduces himself to the Catholic right-to-life woman. Eyeing his smiling entourage, she replies "I detest pornography."

Seeing a chance, I hand him a copy of BROTHER. He flips through it, cautiously. Suddenly his eyes widen, and he looks up. "Is this some kinna... uh, GAY group?" ("That's homophobia" I hear Beth whispering to her friend.)

On the air Siller announces that child custody and abolishing the military draft were the main men's issues he would fight for. During a commercial someone told him that the draft had already been abolished a few years ago. He nodded and carefully crossed out several lines in his notes.

With four guests trying to talk, the program is a circus. It's hard to even finish a sentence. I try to get in that our organization is nation-wide, and that in addition to our concern for the sex-role problems of the average American man, we support feminism and gay rights. There's not much time. To highlight the difference between Siller and us, I say it's symbolic that he's being sponsored by Penthouse, "a trashy magazine, from a trashy publisher." For the first time, Siller looks upset.

The 9th National Conference on Men & Masculinity

Join Us!



June 30-
July 3

Washington, DC



Room
with
me!

No!
With me!



The Conference is sponsored by The National Organization for Men. Register NOW and save money. For members of the N.O.M., the Conference Fee is \$40 before May 31, \$50 afterward. The fee for non-members will be higher. Those with little or no income may write to request reductions. HOTEL HOUSING: Room cost per person, per night: \$16.75 (Cheap) - QUAD; \$20.50 - TRIPLE; \$25.25 - DOUBLE; \$50.50 - SINGLE. Request roommate(s) desired. Send one night's rent with Conference Fee. (These prices are only guaranteed to us through May 31.) MAIL TO: NATIONAL CONFERENCE, PO Box 76132, Washington DC 20013. 20013.

I'm
submitting
a workshop



(Siller, continued)

A telephone caller addresses a question to "the guy from the national men's group", Bill Boggs says with a big grin "Which one? I've got two of them here!"

As we left, Siller approached me in the hall. "How could you say that, about Mr. Guccione? He's a wonderful man, a great man! You know, he could sue you."

I was tired by now, and not feeling quite so gentle. I hadn't even used Guccione's name on the air. "Tell him I said he's a pig" I said, "tell him he's a pornographer. Let him sue me. Go ahead, sue me." ("Daddy!, let's go", whispered Beth urgently, seeing her allowance for the next thousand years about to vanish.

P.S. The column has been appearing in Penthouse, but, there've been no more news reports about his efforts to start an organization.

Should we change our name? Partly because of the Sidney Siller incident, (see story above) and also because some members feel that our present, deliberately neutral name is not sufficiently explicit or descriptive of our politics and values, the NOM council was recently polled about the possibility of selecting a new name for our organization. And if so... to what? Present indications are that the Chair Committee will poll the entire membership in the near future. Please think about it.

National Conference

What would you like to see at the National Conference on Men and Masculinity next Summer? How do you envision the future of the conferences, the men's movement, and the National Organization? We'd like to know what you think.

We are the National Conference Committee - Jeff Beane, Tony Bell, and Harold Wells. Our job is to assist the 1984 planners in Washington DC, and to do long term planning so that the national conferences will respond to the needs and ideas of as many people as possible. Those needs may be to to play, politicize, lobby, organize, relax, heal, or celebrate.

Some suggestions we've received already are to have more time for task and regional groups, focus on translating theory into concrete action, address issues of parenting, divorce, child custody and child support, continue to address homophobia both within and between straight and gay men, to reach out more actively to men who are already involved in related issues, to men of color, and to working class men, and to continue to heal ourselves and each other, and work cooperatively by playing close attention to our process as we work, play and interact together.

We would like to hear your needs and ideas. Send your suggestions to Jeff Beane, 2312 Miramar St, Los Angeles CA 90057; (213) 381-2006. We look forward to being with you in Washington.

local men's organizations, so that a stronger national network is beginning to form.

Step 3. Creating a stable organization which can coordinate plans, assign responsibilities, and sponsor activities. We're struggling with this one now. With out the funds for a paid staff, can we get volunteers, collect dues, publish a regular Newsletter, answer the mail, plan conferences, recruit new members? It's too soon to say.



Step 4. Generating social actions consistent with our goals. Our movement has sponsored some commendable actions, particularly in domestic-violence, men's culture, men's studies, and support for the E.R.A. We still have a way to go in this area however. The newly-created Task Groups are our major current effort to develop new action programs.

Step 5. Building alliances and drawing members from other progressive movements. As we gain momentum and credibility, we have a natural base of potential support in other social reform organizations. (We do not yet have any official, cooperative ties to the feminist, gay liberation, anti-nuclear, environmental, civil rights, or other active reform movements.)

Step 6. Building a large dues-paying membership of mainstream American men. Many people assume that the average American man is opposed to sex role change. Yet when the E.R.A. was being debated, an astonishing 58% of adult men told pollsters that they supported it. That means about 27 1/2 million American men who, in at least one way, opposed the Patriarchal status quo. When and if we have the resources for a real publicity and outreach effort, I think we will gain a very large membership - without changing or diluting our principles.

Step 7. Having a significant influence on public policy decisions in this country. With large numbers and activities will come strength and influence. At this stage we would appear in print and on TV, hold press conferences, draft legislation, endorse candidates, and generally take part in the process of

public debate and decision-making. (This is roughly where the National Organization Of Women, with its 150,000 members and an annual budget of four million dollars, is today.)

But now, back to reality. We're still a small and little-known movement of men, surrounded by the powerful and entrenched institutions of the Patriarchy. It's hard for our voices even to be heard. I must confess that a couple of years ago, I imagined that we could charge immediately to Steps 6 and 7. Having now charged into brick walls a few times ("You're no movement" sniffed The New York Times), I'm resigned to a slightly slower timetable. We can work on various fronts at once, but the most critical steps for the men's movement in 1984 are probably still internal. We still need to consolidate our existing movement, and make the N.O.M. an effective, functioning organization, before we can do much else.

The old Patriarchal, male-supremist, homophobic, model of society has been around for thousands of years. It won't disappear overnight. But it's not a good way to live: not for women, not for children, not for minorities, not even for straight, white, middle-class men. We get a slightly larger piece of the pie... and then it chews us up too. Perhaps I'm wrong, but I believe that in the end, we can defeat it.



every man for himself

we shall be brilliant
we shall collect data
we shall write books
about men
unhappiness
and bedrooms

we shall extol vulnerability
keep a loaded 45 within reach
kick ass when necessary
and get on with
the business of brotherhood

we shall make a key
it will open the door
there will be no house

we are the scholars
of the fast break
and the full court press

-Sidney Miller

LETTERS

Dear Brothers: I just read issue #2, and wish to commend the design and layout. The photos and drawings give each page the importance it deserves.

However my praise is marred by the poor judgement in including the Feiffer cartoon on p. 7. Here we see an obese, unaware, guilt-ridden father bragging about his unfeeling disrespectful, parasitic son. This vilifies and denegrates the father/son relationship. What is intended as humor is actually an insult to all men who have worked to repair these relationships. Because of this cartoon I am embarrassed to use this issue of BROTHER. What was the purpose in running this? What issues are presented in it that relate with our principles? Has any father among you thought about whether these drawings represent anything real in your own life or in the lives of other men? Can I expect a member of the Editorial Board to apologize to me for publishing this cartoon?

- Sam Julty

Barry Shapiro responds: I'm startled and saddened by your reaction to the Feiffer cartoon. As a father of a teenage son myself, I certainly had no intention of vilifying fathers who are working hard to establish good relations with their children. I felt the cartoon was a penetrating and rude reminder of how easy it is for us adults to delude ourselves with self-congratulations about our relations with our children. The purpose was insight, not insult. I'm truly sorry it affected you the way it did.

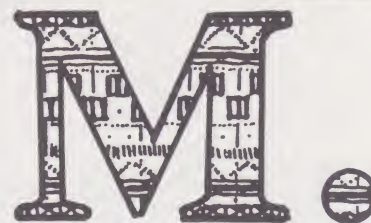
To the Editor: I came to the [Ann Arbor] conference with a great deal of apprehension. For the fourth conference in a row, my workshop proposals had been censored. When I arrived, I found that the organizers would permit me to set up a table to sell my book and other men's issue books, unlike my experience in L.A. in '79. Then I listened to Geoff Morgan's songs, and they were such a delight to me. Not once did he put us down for being men. In fact sometimes he was able to celebrate the good things about us as men. I wrote and handed out a critique of the conference in which I expressed my dismay at the absence of a men's perspective on so many issues...then on Sunday, a wonderful thing happened... after I submitted a resolution to the plenary session which stated that the organization is primarily pro-men (as well as being pro-gay and pro-feminist). After that resolution was defeated, several men came over to me and...we developed a very innocuous statement endorsing the brotherhood of all men, which later passed with almost no dissent...I sensed a real desire among the participants, most if perhaps not all, to reach out, to build a bridge - to cooperate for a change.

- Roy Schenk, Madison, WI

To the Editors: I wanted to share with you a few words about the Northeast Regional Men's Conference, which was held in Amherst. It was an amazing success. We had expected 180 people, and ended up with about 230. The theme - Making Connections - was felt throughout the weekend in our sharing, playing, loving and working together. We now have a regional organization planning committee of 24 representatives from 8 different geographical areas within the region. These people will hold an open meeting in February to continue to plan our regional organizing efforts. The men's movement in the northeast is on its way!

Steve Botkin, Belchertown, MA

EDITORS' NOTE: We received several letters and suggestions concerning a change in the organization's name, which we have referred to the committee which is studying that issue.



gentle men for gender justice

—a nationwide journal on masculinity and feminism for men who create lives beyond masculine stereotypes, who know the joy of intimate equal relationships with women and men, who are active in ending sexism.

JUST OUT!

The Winter 1983-84 Issue of M.

Features

8th National Conference on Men & Masculinity • Other Men by John Stoltenberg • Work Clothes & Leisure Suits: The Class Basis & Bias of the Men's Movement by Harry Brod • and much, much more.

Regular subscription \$10 (4 issues)

Sample copy of current issue: \$3

M. 306 N. Brooks Madison, WI 53715

NEW YORK CENTER FOR MEN announces its 1983-1984 program, including events on Men and Women at Play; Towards a Men's Agenda; Male Sexuality: straight, gay, and homophobic; and Male Friendships and the Father-Son Relationship. Address: 251 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024.

RENEW YOUR
DUES



- ☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP
☐ DUES RENEWAL
☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

MEMBERSHIP/RESPONSE FORM

MAIL TO: N.O.M. BOX 93, Charleston IL 61920

Annual Membership dues are \$25 yr., including subscription to BROTHER.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

YEAH



JOIN ANY OF THE NATIONAL TASK GROUPS LISTED BELOW
(Include \$3 annual dues for each Task Group)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homophobia | <input type="checkbox"/> Pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> Male-Female Relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Racism & Sex Roles | <input type="checkbox"/> Battering & Domestic Violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fathering | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Images of Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Men & The Military Experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Rape & Sexual Violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Rights Amendment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men & Ageing | <input type="checkbox"/> Consciousness-Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Work & Job Satisfaction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports & Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment | |

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MEN:
Write to Dave Matteson
814 Blackhawk Dr.
University Park IL 60466

A Project of The Center
For Men's Health Education
1900 Fruitvale Ave. Suite 3C
Oakland, CA 94601


The NewsQuarterly of the National Organization for Men

BROTHER

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
Oakland, CA.
Permit #641

brother

The NewsQuarterly of the National Organization for Men



WHAT? The National
Organization for Men will be
meeting in WASHINGTON? Quick!
Call in the Marines!!
I'll INVADE!!!